



Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

26 September 2005

National Ocean Service

National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service

Last bulletin: September 22, 2005

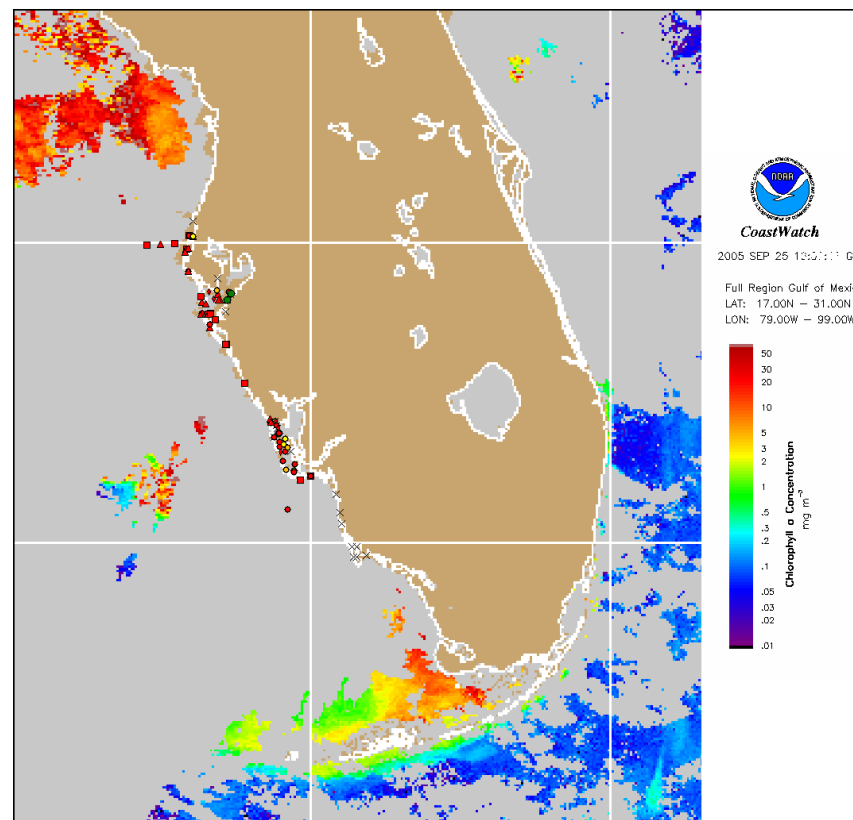
Conditions: A harmful algal bloom has been identified from northern Pinellas County to central Collier County. The following patchy impacts are possible through Thursday: moderate impacts in Pinellas, southern Sarasota, Lee, and northern Collier Counties; high impacts in Manatee and northern Sarasota Counties; very low impacts in Charlotte County; low impacts in southern Collier County. A harmful algal bloom has also been identified from Bay to Levy Counties. The following patchy impacts are possible in Bay and Franklin Counties: low impacts today, very low impacts tomorrow, low impacts Wednesday, very low impacts Thursday. Dead fish were reported in Dunedin, Bradenton Beach, Sanibel, Fort Meyers, and Key Largo since September 22. Dead fish smell, while unpleasant, does not produce the same respiratory irritation as red tide.

Analysis: Recent imagery has been obscured by clouds. The bloom persists from Pinellas County to Collier County. Respiratory irritation has been reported in Manatee, Sarasota, and Lee Counties over the last week. A wind transport model indicates that the bloom may have expanded 35-55 km north since September 22. Hurricane Rita has probably caused resuspension, and limits analysis. Reports of discolored water are likely. Variable southerly winds will likely cause northward expansion and onshore transport.

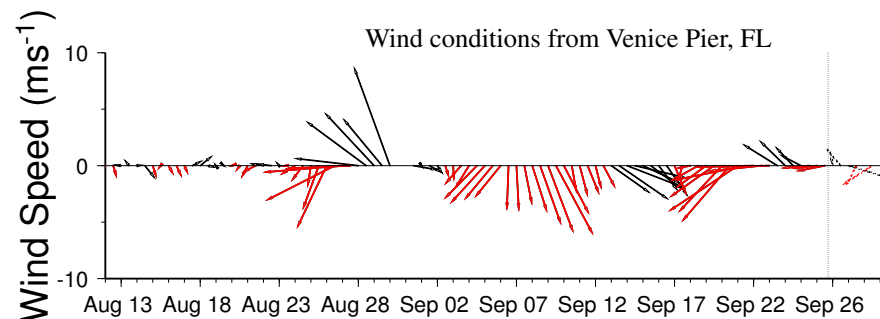
Bronder, Fenstermacher

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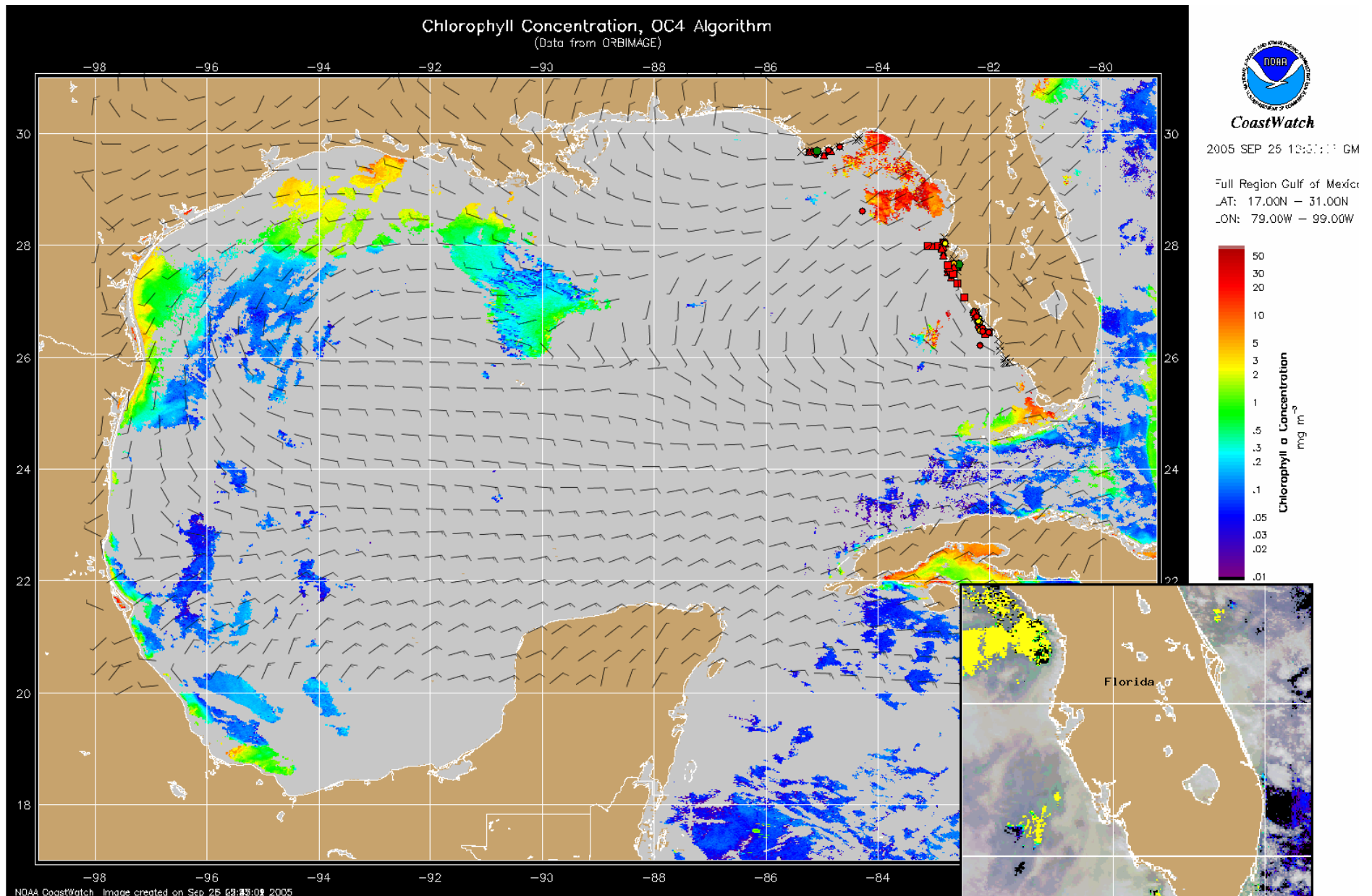


Chlorophyll concentration from satellite with HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration sampling data from September 9, 2005 shown as red squares (high), red triangles (medium), red diamonds (low b), red circles (low a), orange circles (very low b), yellow circles (very low a), green circles (present), and black "X" (not present).



Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from measurements made on buoys. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts.

Winds will be southeast today, southwest tomorrow, south Wednesday, and southwest Thursday (10 kts, 5 m/s).



Chlorophyll concentration from satellite and forecast winds for September 27, 2005 12Z with cell concentration sampling data from September 9, 2005 shown as red squares (high), red triangles (medium), red diamonds (low b), red circles (low a), orange circles (very low b), yellow circles (very low a), green circles (present), and black "X" (not present).

Blooms shown in red (see p. 1 analysis)